16th July 1953]

*Strike by the workers of Vijayavada Municipality.*

* 529 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state whether it is a fact that 1,200 workers of the Vijayavada Municipality struck work on 28th March 1953 on the refusal of the Government to grant house rent allowance to them; and if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY:—"The Municipal Health Officer, Vijayavada, reported that the sanitary workers of the municipality went on strike on 28th March 1953. The Government have already permitted Municipal Councils in Government Order, dated 25th March 1953, to pay a house rent allowance of Rs. 3 per mensem to each of the sanitary workers of the municipality who have not been provided with quarters."

Sri PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know, Sir, the house rent allowance the Hon. Minister is getting and the percentage it bears to his salary and also the percentage which the house rent allowance of Rs. 3 paid to the sanitary workers bears to their salary? Does the Hon. Minister think that the municipal workers can secure houses at a rent of Rs. 3 per mensem?"

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY:—"The hon. Member may work out the percentage himself."

Sri PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"My question has not been answered, Sir."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member can give notice of a separate question."

*Construction of houses for slum-dwellers.*

* 530 *Q.*—Sri C. R. RAMASWAMY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of house building co-operative societies engaged in building houses for slum-dwellers in the Madras City; and

(*b*) whether he would consider the appointment of a Special Deputy Registrar with a view to assisting these slum-dwellers in forming house building co-operative societies?

The Hon. Sri D. SANJIVAYYA:—"(*a*) There are no housing societies engaged in building houses for slum-dwellers in the Madras City.

"(*b*) It is not feasible to organize housing societies for the slum-dwellers as they have no assured repaying capacity to repay Government loans which are given for house construction."